

Appendix D.

Glossary of Terms Used in EA and Specialist Reports

Commercial Thin

An above cost thinning operation to release and grow a future forest into larger size classes and structure types.

Contagion Index for Spruce Budworm

This index is a measurement of the number of adjacencies of similar patch types for spruce budworm, many patches of adjacent multi-layered forest create a high contagion index for spruce budworm.

Crown Bulk Density¹

A measure of the density of tree needles and fine branches from a cubic meter of tree canopy, usually measured in Kg/ M³.

Crown Fire¹

The movement of fire through the crowns or tops of trees or shrubs more or less independently of the surface fire. A fire is said to be "crowning" when the flames get up into the tops of trees and spreads.

Crowning Index

A measure of wind speed needed to initiate and sustain a crown fire within stands and between stands.

Detrimental Soil Disturbance

Soil disturbances of concern include compaction, puddling, rutting, organic matter and topsoil displacement, and disruption of soil drainage. These disturbances may affect soil capacity for water infiltration and storage, tree growth, or soil erosion. Consequences depend on the severity and extent of disturbance, and on the soil and climate where disturbance occurs.

Ecosystem Restoration¹

The use and application of the full range of fuel treatments to promote plant community diversity and structure that are more resilient to disturbance, invasive species, and less likely to facilitate uncharacteristically intense wildland fires. Involves restoration of rangelands, short-interval fire-adapted plant communities, and long-interval fire-adapted plant communities.

Future Range of Variability

Range of forest conditions expected under a hotter and drier climate scenario.

Hand Line¹

A fireline built with hand tools, such as shovels and pulaskis.

Historic Range of Variability

The historical pattern and abundance of structural stages within watersheds, using pre-settlement (1890-1900) conditions as a reference point.

¹ Source: From <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/resources/glossary/m.shtml>)

Ladder Fuels¹

Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata, thereby allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease. They help start and continue crowning on a fire.

Late Successional Habitat

Forest structure with large and old overstory trees, deep tree canopies, more than two age classes, and abundant downed wood and snags.

Late Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA)

A document reviewed and approved by the Regional Interagency Executive Committee, characterizing each Late Successional Reserve on a National Forest and providing guidance for management activities within those LSRs.

Litter¹

Top layer of the forest, scrubland, or grassland floor, directly above the fermentation layer. It's composed of loose debris including sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles, little altered in structure by decomposition.

Mop up¹

To make a fire safe or reduce residual smoke after the fire has been contained, by extinguishing or removing burning material along or near the control line, felling snags, or moving logs and large rocks so they won't roll downhill. Mop-up work is usually (but not always) handled by hand crews.

Old Forest Multi-Story (OFMS)

A forest structure with broken overstory canopy and > 2 strata, large overstory trees, and a high level of horizontal and vertical diversity. Many tree sizes are present.

Old Forest Single Story (OFSS)

A forest structure with broken or continuous canopy cover of large, old trees, a single stratum, with little reproduction in the understory. Natural regeneration is limited by non-lethal natural or underburn fires.

Precommercial Thinning

A below cost thinning operation used to release young stands < 8" in diameter so they can grow into larger size classes.

Prescribed Fire¹

Any fire ignited by management actions under certain pre-determined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels reduction or habitat improvement. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met prior to ignition. Prescribed fires are ignited and managed within a "window" (see Prescription below) of very specific conditions including winds, temperatures, humidity, and other factors specified in the burn plan. Prescribed fire is also referred to as a "controlled burn" or "prescribed burn".

Reburn¹

The burning of an area that has previously burned but that contains flammable fuels that ignite when burning conditions are more conducive to ignition.

Slash¹

Debris left after logging, pruning, thinning, or brush cutting; can include logs, chips, bark, branches, stumps and broken understory trees or brush.

Stewardship Contracting

Stewardship Contracting allows private organizations or business to remove forest products, such as trees and undergrowth, in return for performing work to restore and maintain healthy forest ecosystems. Work performed under stewardship contracts can provide a source of local employment and income to contribute to the development of sustainable rural communities.

Stem Exclusion Open Canopy (SEOC)

A forest structure with 1 canopy layer, often broken with openings, and recruitment of saplings and poles is present.

Surface Fuels¹

Loose litter on the soil surface, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches that have not yet decayed; also grasses, forbs, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, heavier branchwood, downed logs, and stumps interspersed with or partially replacing the litter.

Underburn¹

A fire that consumes surface fuels but not trees or shrubs.

Understory reinitiation

A forest structure with broken overstory, > 2 canopy layers, gaps in the overstory are creating regeneration patches in the understory.

Wet Line¹

A line of water, or water and retardant, sprayed along the ground, which serves as a temporary control line from which to ignite or stop a low-intensity fire.

Wildland/Urban Interface¹

The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Often incorrectly referred to as the "interzone" or "urban/wildland interface."

Young Forest Multi-Story (YFMS)

A forest structure type that is dominated by small trees, or when large trees comprise 10 to 30% of the canopy cover.